



# *Creeks and Communities:*

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A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian  
Restoration and Management

## **Riparian Coordination Network**

### **Accomplishments FY2003**

(October 2002 – September 2003)

*“Achieving Healthy Streams Through Bringing People Together”*

PREPARED BY  
THE RIPARIAN SERVICE TEAM  
JANUARY 2004

# Riparian Coordination Network

The interagency Creeks and Communities strategy is a joint effort of Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, in cooperation with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It is implemented by the Riparian Coordination Network which includes the Riparian Service Team, Agency Riparian Program Coordinators, and State Cadres with personnel from federal and state agencies, universities, industry and conservation interests, and the private sector.

## Operating Philosophy

- Increase the capacity of the Riparian Coordination Network to effectively implement the Creeks & Communities Strategy to help individuals, communities, and institutions understand riparian-wetland function, and to confront and resolve complex and contentious issues regarding riparian-wetland resources, in a way that is relevant to people's needs.
- Bring communities of people together to create a common vision for productive and sustainable riparian-wetland conditions, and assist in the development of collaborative management and monitoring plans to achieve this vision.
- Incorporate fundamental concepts from both the biophysical and social dimensions of riparian-wetland management to achieve positive results for resources and communities.
- Ensure program effectiveness through evaluation and adaptation.

## Program Goal and Objectives

Goal: To develop a critical mass of people who interact with and manage riparian-wetland resources based on shared knowledge of the attributes and processes that constitute sustainability.

Objective: Provide individuals and groups of diverse interests and backgrounds with the tools to develop a shared understanding of riparian-wetland function, and assist in developing solutions to management challenges stemming from issues in both the resource and human dimensions.

Objective: Create awareness and understanding of, and interest in, this strategy and invite participation across multiple scales.

Objective: Ensure consistency and effectiveness through activities focusing on program management and accountability.

## Riparian Service Team

- **Ronald Wiley**, Team Leader
- **Carol Connolly**, Public Affairs Specialist
- **Cyndie Hice**, SCEP Information Technology Specialist
- **Susan Holtzman**, Team Coordinator
- **Lisa Lewis**, Soils Scientist
- **Janice Staats**, Hydrologist
- **Laura Van Riper**, Social Scientist
- **Sandy Wyman**, Rangeland Management Specialist
- **Adjunct Members** with specialized skills in Ecology, Fisheries, Hydrology, Rangelands, and Conflict Management

## Agency Riparian Program Coordinators

- **Steve Borchard**, Washington, DC, and **BLM State Office Riparian Coordinators**
- **Rick Swanson**, Washington, DC, and **Forest Service Regional Riparian Coordinators**
- **Dennis Thompson**, Washington, DC, and **NRCS State Riparian Coordinators**

## State/Provincial Cadre Coordinators

- AZ **Tom Surbirge**, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest
- AZ **Dave Smith**, Flagstaff US Fish and Wildlife Service
- CA **Randy Gould**, USDA Forest Service Pacific SW Region
- CA **Bill Cunningham**, NRCS California State Office
- CA **Lenore Thomas**, BLM California State Office
- Canada **Cori Barraclough**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- Canada **Patrick Lucey**, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.
- CO **Jay Thompson**, BLM Colorado State Office
- ID **Ervin Cowley**, BLM Idaho State Office
- MT **Forrest Berg**, NRCS
- NM **Steve McWilliams**, private citizen
- NV **Denise Adkins**, BLM Carson City
- OR E **Jim Eisner**, BLM Prineville Field Office
- OR W **Chris Massingill**, Mainstream Consulting
- UT **Steve Smith**, Cedar City Ranger District, Dixie National Forest
- WA E **Andrea Mann**, NRCS Wenatchee
- WA W **Vacant**
- WY **Mark Gorges**, BLM Wyoming State Office

## CONSULTING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

### Service Trips – Riparian Service Team

- Pleasant View Allotment, BLM Pocatello, Idaho
  - The NRST was asked to assist in making management recommendations designed to facilitate and upward trend in the condition of the riparian areas and dry canyon bottom lands. The working group wanted an agreed upon course of action that addressed the issues and concerns of the Pleasantview Livestock and Grazing Associations, Idaho Conservation League, Western Watersheds Project, and the BLM.
- Cebolla Canyon, BLM Albuquerque, New Mexico
  - Located within the El Malpais National Conservation Area, two pastures within the Cebolla Canyon have been the subject of litigation relative to grazing. After rest and evidence of recovery, the working group asked for assistance in determining a management and monitoring strategy for re-initiation of grazing once the system had achieved proper functioning condition.
- Green Mountain Common Allotment, Lander, Wyoming
  - Conflicts and issues are preventing the working group from moving ahead to improve management, and eventually the resource conditions on one of the largest unfenced areas within the BLM system. Expert facilitators led the working group through a consensus building process to create a basis for a course of action that would involve many phases over the next 5-10 years.
- Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District, Blairsden, California
  - Because of a shared concern for watershed health and a desire to resolve the ongoing issues surrounding grazing on public lands, a partnership was formed between California Trout, Five Dot Cattle Company, Plumas NF, and University of CA Cooperative Extension. The NRST was asked to help the group; 1) build trust between the parties, 2) develop a cooperative grazing plan with no permanent reductions in AUM's, 3) establish a no penalty, adaptive management situation, and 4) design a monitoring plan.
- Colville National Forest, Colville, Washington
  - The relationships between people on interdisciplinary teams are important because “people solve natural resource issues”. The NRST and WA Cadre worked with the Newport and Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts on ways to be more effective working with each other and stakeholders relative to riparian resources.
- East Fork Allotments, Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Challis, Idaho
  - The NRST met with a group of diverse interests concerned about stream and riparian-wetland management on the East Fork of the Salmon River. They were asked to provide their opinion regarding the condition of the riparian-wetland areas, discuss finding with stakeholders, and recommend management and monitoring options.
- Whitetail/Butte Allotment, Lewis & Clark National Forest, White Sulphur Springs, Montana
  - The Forest Service and the permittees asked for assistance relative to the application of utilization and bank alteration standards involving review of sample reaches and PFC assessments done by both. The results were very similar and the NRST recommended they do both the assessment work and monitoring together as a foundation for successful adaptive management.
- Yanix Ranch (Sycan River), Beatty, Oregon
  - Working with the ranch owners and Sustainable Northwest (NGO), the NRST provided expertise in the design of an innovative working lands conservation easement as part of the development of a conservation investment model.

- Catlow Basin PFC Assessment, Harney County, Oregon
  - The NRST assisted in re-assessing riparian resources within an area covered by a Conservation Agreement for improving and enhancing habitat for Catlow Basin redband trout and the Catlow tui chub. Members of the Conservation Working Group include the Roaring Springs Ranch, BLM Burns District, USFWS Malheur Wildlife Refuge and the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.
- BLM National Science Advisory Board
  - On the Board's field review trip, the NRST covered watershed, riparian, and aquatic resources and provided recommendations relative to research needs.

## **Ongoing Participation – Riparian Service Team**

- Governor appointed Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST), Oregon
- PACFISH/INFISH Monitoring
- Stubble Height Review Team
- Roads Riparian Restoration Team, Forest Service San Dimas Technology & Development Center
- Crook County Natural Resources Planning Committee

## **Assistance to State Cadres – Riparian Service Team**

Cadre Coordinators Meeting, Prineville, Oregon

### CALIFORNIA

San Luis Obispo, sponsored by Salmonid Restoration Federation

### OREGON

Pacific Northwest Chapter Society for Range Management (SRM) and Oregon Chapter American Fishereis Society (AFS) Fisheries & Livestock Workshop

### MONTANA

Butte, Lentic PFC

### NEW MEXICO

Uvalde, Texas

### WASHINGTON

Washington Cadre Development Meeting, Nisqually, Washington  
Conference call

## **Review and Advice**

- University of Wisconsin, Madison middle-school riparian tool-kit development for BLM
- Draft Forest Service Guiding Principles for Water
- Bair Ranch Low Moisture Supplement/Herding Research Project, Montana State University and Ridley Block, White Sulphur Springs, Montana
- Steelhead Falls trail plan and design, BLM Prineville, Oregon
- City of Prineville and Oregon Department of Transportation, Crooked River Bridge design and location, Prineville, Oregon
- Doe Creek Landslide, Ochoco National Forest, Prineville, Oregon

## **Service Trips – State Riparian Cadres**

### ARIZONA

Little Colorado River landowner assistance in Springerville - Discussed potential, current condition, landowner goals and objectives, recommendations for improvement including trash removal and riparian-wetland vegetation plantings and applying for grants.

### IDAHO

Coeur d’Alene Tribe Fisheries Staff - Discussed riparian issues including PFC assessment and monitoring.

### NEW MEXICO

BLM Farmington - Palluche Wash riparian potential determination, condition assessment, and management recommendations.

## **Request for Information / Referrals**

Summary - Responded to 32 requests for information on subjects ranging from Creeks & Communities Strategy, riparian management techniques, monitoring, and soil bioengineering in addition to making referrals for further information or assistance.

## **Training and Workshops that integrate the biophysical and social dimensions of riparian-wetland management**

### **Riparian Service Team**

- Winward Riparian Vegetation Monitoring
  - Sponsored by Oregon State University Cooperative Extension, Prineville, Oregon
  - Sponsored by Bighorn National Forest, Sheridan, Wyoming
- Texas Riparian Association/Texas SRM Riparian Workshop, Abilene, Texas
- Creeks & Communities Workshop, Teton Science School, Kelly, Wyoming
- Grazing Management for Riparian Areas, Prineville, Oregon
  - Sponsored by Oregon State University Cooperative Extension
- Grazing Management for Riparian Areas, Enterprise, Oregon
  - Sponsored by OSU Extension, FS, Wallowa Co. Stockgrowers and SWCD
- Grazing Management for Riparian Areas, Afton, Wyoming
  - Sponsored by Bridger-Teton National Forest
- FS Roads Riparian Restoration Training, Cincinnati, Ohio and Missoula, Montana
- River Restoration Training, Inter Fluv Consulting, Klamath Falls, Oregon
  - Sponsored by Klamath Tribes
- Washington Conservation Corps, Nisqually, Washington
  - Sponsored by WA Department of Ecology

- Agricultural Riparian Management Workshop, Redmond, Oregon
  - Sponsored by OR Department of Agriculture
- Keigley Browse Evaluation Training, Prineville, Oregon
- PFC Assessment Workshop, Logan, Utah
  - Sponsored by BLM PFC/macro-invertebrate correlation study group.
- University Guest Lectures
  - University of Idaho Lecture Series
  - Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Protocol Training, Research Methods Forestry Graduate Course, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana
  - Participatory Research Methods Training, Research Methods Forestry Graduate Course, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana
  - Riparian-Wetland Graduate Course, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana

## **State Riparian Cadres**

### CALIFORNIA

Walker Creek Ranch, sponsored by University of California Cooperative Extension  
 San Luis Obispo, sponsored by Salmonid Restoration Federation  
 Alpine County, sponsored by Alpine County Watershed Group  
 Davis, sponsored by NRCS (part of Water Quality Assessment Workshop)  
 West Sacramento, sponsored by California State Parks

### COLORADO

Del Norte  
 Glenwood Springs  
 Boulder  
 Grand Junction

### IDAHO

Malad  
 Salmon  
 Hailey  
 Lewiston  
 Emmett  
 Mountain Home  
 Moscow, U of I

### MONTANA

Butte, Lentic  
 Sheridan, Lotic

### NEVADA

Assisted CA Cadre in Markleeville, CA  
 University of Nevada, Reno  
 Nevada Youth Range Camp  
 Carlin  
 Indian Agricultural and Environmental Summit (Reno)

## NEW MEXICO

Uvalde, Texas  
Las Vegas

## OREGON

Pacific Northwest Chapter SRM and Oregon Chapter AFS - Fisheries & Grazing Workshop  
Coquille, sponsored by OSU Extension  
Condon, sponsored by local watershed coordinator

## UTAH

Logan

## WASHINGTON

Spokane

## WYOMING

Lander, Aerial Interpretation of PFC Assessment  
Lander

# **CREATING AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND INTEREST**

## **Briefings, Presentations, and Key Contacts – Riparian Service Team**

- Washington, DC (USDA NRE, FS, NRCS, USDI L&M, BLM, EPA, NACD)
- BLM Executive Leadership Team, Salt Lake City, Utah
- American Institute of Hydrology (AIH) Conference, Portland, Oregon
- Watershed Management Council, Watersheds Across Boundaries Conference, Skamania, Washington
- 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Low Volume Roads, Reno, Nevada
- Teton Science School, Kelly, Wyoming
- Soil Water Conservation Society Annual Conference, Spokane, Washington
- Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District, Prineville, Oregon
- Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Eagle Crest, Oregon
- Cows and Creeks Workshop, Oregon State University Cooperative Extension, Prineville, Oregon
- Quivira Coalition Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- SRM Annual Meeting, Casper, Wyoming
- National Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Coordinators Meeting, Rapid City, South Dakota
- Pacific Northwest Tri-State Range Shortcourse, Spokane, Washington
- Community Based Collaboratives Research Consortium Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah
- Bringing Water Home Workshop, Albany, Oregon
- Workshops for Sustainability for Fish, Water, and People (Consensus Institute II)
- Grant Writing Workshop, BLM National Training Center, Prineville, Oregon
- Fire Training Planning, Portland, Oregon
- Fire Information Officer Training, Redmond, Oregon
- Advanced Fire Information Officer Training
- Public Affairs Conference, Boise, Idaho



- Public Affairs Meeting, Portland, Oregon
- Local Media Training, Prineville, Oregon
- Soil Science Institute, Pullman, Washington
- Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting, Spokane, Washington
- Klamath Tribes, Klamath Falls, Oregon
- Gayle Gordon, BLM National Association of Conservation Districts Western Governors Association Representative
- National Association of Conservation District Buffer Notes Newsletter
- EPA Watershed Training Course Catalog
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Awards to PMDS employees and the BLM National Science and Technology Center

## **Briefings, Presentations, and Key Contacts – State Riparian Cadres**

### IDAHO

Twin Falls Chapter, Native Plant Society

### OREGON

La Grande, Portland State University resource issues class

### WASHINGTON

Booth at Washington Cattlemen's Association  
Range Forum, Washington Cattlemen's Association  
Booth at Coordinated Resource Management Workshop  
WA Association of Conservation Districts  
Soil Water Conservation Society Meeting

## **Products to Market and Implement the Strategy**

Progress Report, an account of the initiative to date  
Creeks & Communities, revised strategic plan document (December 2002)  
Poster development (3)  
Full Stream Ahead newsletter  
TR-1737-19 Riparian-Wetland Soils  
Course materials for workshops in Westside Cascade areas (western Oregon and Washington)  
Creeks and Communities – Water Supply and Drought integration concept paper

## **PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

### **Planning and Coordination**

Team meetings – team protocols, work planning, work tracking and reporting processes  
Operations Plan development  
Network development and strategy implementation planning  
Funding strategy concept meeting with Helene Aarons  
Riparian Service Team data base development meeting, Denver, Colorado  
Riparian Coordination Network Workshop Planning – Nov 2003  
Program coordination meeting with W.O. Board of Directors  
BLM and Forest Service budget formulation

Interagency budget agreement  
Draft Service First Charter, Project Plan and Chart  
Forest Service Detached Unit Review

## **Reporting**

Annual Accomplishment Report  
Program of work summaries  
Input to SES performance evaluations – FS and BLM  
Forest Service FY03 Performance and Accountability Report

## **Evaluation**

Initiation of pre-service assessments and post service evaluations  
Use of evaluation results to design work adaptations  
Initiation of inquiry into OBM evaluation renewal approval process